

may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

FIRING OF TENNESSEE TEACHER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I was saddened when I read this morning about an incident concerning a teacher and a school board in East Tennessee. Matthew Hawn was fired for teaching about white privilege to his largely white classes of Contemporary Issues students in Sullivan Central High School in Kingsport, Tennessee. Mr. Hawn used both historical and contemporary examples, including the recent trial of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for the death of George Floyd. The General Assembly of Tennessee recently outlawed teachers from teaching critical race theory or ideas that any race is "inherently privileged, racist, sexist or oppressive" and backed the law with financial penalties. This sort of legislating is a throwback to an earlier period of intolerance and fear of history and science. Our state's reputation was stained in the 1920s by the prosecution of Dayton, Tennessee, schoolteacher John Scopes for teaching evolution. I had hoped those days were long behind us. I guess not. Confronting painful periods in our country's history—such as slavery, segregation, the Trail of Tears, women denied voting rights—will make our students more tolerant, aware and worldly. I am deeply troubled by what has happened to Mr. Hawn and I hope decision makers will restore him to his place in the classroom where he can challenge young minds with new ideas.

HONORING MAJOR HOLLY GRAMKOW

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an essential member of my team who leveraged her military logistics experience to evacuate our Afghan allies to safety, Major Holly Gramkow.

Since 2009, Major Gramkow has been a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force. She's a graduate of the University of Portland Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps and has over a decade of on-the-ground experience working on F-16, A-10 and C-130J airframes.

Throughout her military career, she has held positions as Fabrication Flight Commander, Aircraft Maintenance Unit Officer in Charge, and Director of Operations; as well as an Exchange Officer position with the Chilean Air Force as their Chief of Propulsion for F-16s. Major Gramkow has also served as an Aide-de-Camp and most recently as Branch Chief for Legacy Fighter Sustainment, Headquarters Air Force. She's also the Chief Financial Officer for the Logistics Officer Association, a non-profit that supports the professional development of her fellow officers.

However, it is during her time with our office as a Defense Fellow where we've seen her re-

lentless commitment to others firsthand. Despite limited previous experience with the legislative branch, she has taken to the work like a natural—leading key initiatives on veterans issues, military supply chains, and the National Defense Authorization Act. Any one of these areas would take up the full bandwidth of a seasoned staffer, but she's been able to handle the competing priorities with skill and aplomb.

Our team was immensely fortunate to have Major Gramkow on staff when we were called to action and I am beyond thankful that we were able to rely on her skill to lead our effort in evacuating vulnerable Afghans. Despite being 2,000 miles away from Washington, D.C. and nearly 8,000 miles from Kabul at times during our mission, she made a difference at a time when for so many, things looked so grim. Our team owes an immense debt of gratitude to Major Gramkow—with the grit of Rosie the Riveter and the resourcefulness of her logistics officer training, she is truly a living embodiment of the core values of the Air Force: "integrity first, service before self, excellence in all we do."

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Major Holly Gramkow for her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty in our effort to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul and support them in their new life. For her efforts to jump into the breach and serve around the clock as staff lead of our operation, and for marshaling the full weight of our office, actions which are in keeping with highest traditions of our military and our Nation, I submit these words—may they stand as a tribute to her dedicated service when the moment called for it most.

SUPPORT FOR HEALTH BILLS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of seven bills that originated in the Health Subcommittee of Energy and Commerce which I have the privilege to chair. These bipartisan bills address the following: health threats to newborns including stillbirth, newborn hearing loss, and birth defects; improving cardiac care and oral health literacy; providing needed mental health support to doctors and other health care professionals; and improving diversity in the allied health workforce.

H.R. 5487, the SHINE for Autumn Act of 2021 seeks to reduce the impact of stillbirth by increasing research and data collection to address the tragedy of the 24,000 babies who are stillborn in the U.S. every year. I thank my colleagues Reps. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, MARKWAYNE MULLIN, and KATHY CASTOR for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 5561, the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2021 reauthorizes programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders to address hearing loss in newborns. I thank my colleagues Reps. BRETT GUTHRIE and DORIS MATSUI for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 5551, the Improving the Health of Children Act reauthorizes the National Center on

Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. This critical center at the CDC helps advance the health of babies born with birth defects, developmental disabilities, blood disorders and other disabilities. I thank my colleagues Reps. BUDDY CARTER and LORI TRAHAN for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 1193, the Cardiovascular Advances in Research and Opportunities Legacy Act funds NIH and CDC research and public education for valvular heart disease. The bill is named in honor of Carol Leavell Barr, the wife of Rep. ANDY BARR, who died last year of sudden cardiac arrest, and I thank him for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 1667, the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act is named after Dr. Lorna Breen, an emergency department doctor who died by suicide last year. Physicians have the highest suicide rate of any profession, and this legislation provides grant funding for suicide-prevention and peer-support at healthcare facilities. It also helps ensure healthcare professionals can ask for mental health help without facing negative consequences in their careers. I thank Reps. SUSAN WILD and DAVID MCKINLEY for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 3320, the Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act of 2021 establishes a grant program to improve diversity in the physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, audiology, and speech-language pathology professions. I thank Reps. BOBBY RUSH and MARKWAYNE MULLIN for authoring this legislation.

H.R. 4555, the Oral Health Literacy and Awareness Act of 2021 directs the Health Resources and Services Administration to conduct a public education campaign to improve awareness of oral health. I thank Reps. TONY CARDENAS and GUS BILIRAKIS for authoring this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to vote for these bills and I thank the members of the House Health Subcommittee and the bipartisan sponsors of each bill for their good work.

HONORING SCHALK SPIES

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our man on the ground and a key member of the team during our operation to evacuate Afghan allies from Kabul, Mr. Schalk Spies.

Service is ingrained in Mr. Schalk's DNA—he served as a captain in the South African National Defense Force, commanding several pathfinder and parachute Special Forces units on missions focused on border protection, surveillance and reconnaissance. Since leaving the military, he's worked as a security and operations manager with over a decade of experience in private sector risk management for international clients. With his top-notch professionalism and attention to detail, he's been relied upon time and time again to oversee all aspects of operations and logistics for U.S. government and non-governmental organization stakeholders.

When we needed someone to make sure our MSU-affiliated Afghan allies got to the